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**Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.**

**REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR 1947.**

**L. A. M. JOHNSTON,**  
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.




**Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.**

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Health Department,  
Houghton-le-Spring.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith present my Eleventh Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics being for the year 1947. Incorporated with this is the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Apologies are tendered for the late date at which this report appears, the delay being due to circumstances beyond control.

On the whole satisfaction may be felt at the progress in the work of the Health Department and in the Health of the Urban District.

Whilst the housing needs of the Area are by no means satisfied yet, the advance towards this goal is very considerable, and is being well maintained.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members,  
Houghton-le-Spring U.D.C.



## Public Health Officers of the Authority.

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The Staff consists of:—

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.** Whole time appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews). The Medical officer is the Medical Superintendent of the Council's Isolation Hospitals.

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.** Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR—No. 2 District.** Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR—No. 3 District.** Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

**SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER.** Whole time. Fellow of Surveyor's Institute and holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

**HEALTH VISITORS.** Are appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council. They are fully qualified holding Nurses Certificates, etc.

**FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS.** Are also appointed and work under the direction of the County Council.

**VETERINARY INSPECTORS.** Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

**MATRON OF THE NORTHERN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.** Whole time. Fully trained in General and Fever Nursing. Contribution is made by the Government to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

The Tuberculosis, School Medical, Maternity or Child Welfare and Venereal Diseases Schemes are all administered directly by the County Council. The County Council also appoint the Public Assistance District Medical Officers and the Public Vaccinators.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Hetton and Medical Superintendent of the Rainton Bridge Isolation Hospital and the Alexandrina Smallpox Hospital.

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## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—5026 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—mid 1947—28,860.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books—8299.

Rateable Value £114,123.

Sum represented by a penny rate £430.

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## Vital Statistics.

### Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1947 was 642 as compared with 636 for 1946.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

		Total	Male	Female	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated populat'n 22.24
Live Births					
	Legitimate	616	314	302	
	Illegitimate	26	10	16	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 20.5.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born (3) the number of females born (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1947, as compared with the years 1940-1946.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1940	461	239	222	16.72	92
1941	460	225	235	16.93	154
1942	458	238	220	17.19	170
1943	588	299	289	22.23	250
1944	561	296	265	20.70	240
1945	499	251	248	18.28	189
1946	636	318	318	22.32	298
1947	642	324	318	22.24	339

Still Births—During 1947 there were 19 still births in the district.

	Total	Male	Female	
Still Births	19	13	6	} giving a Rate of 22.90 per 1000 total (live & still births) births
Legitimate	—	—	—	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.65 in the district as compared with 0.50 for England and Wales.

#### Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 303 residents in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District died, being 179 males and 124 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 10.49.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1947 there were 264 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 152 males and 112 females. Of these 35 males and 13 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 117 males and 99 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 62 males and 25 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 303, being 179 males and 124 females.

The death rate corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 10.49, the population at mid-year 1947, being estimated at 28,860. That for 1946 was 11.86.

#### Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1947, 33 children died under the age of five years, as against 35 in 1946. Therefore 10.56 per cent. of the total



deaths was of children under five years of age, as against 10.35 per cent. in 1946.

### Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 87 residents who died outside the district, 3 died in private houses and 2 following their employment in the mine, 1 in a road accident and 1 following his employment as a Time-Keeper, and the remaining 80 died in Institutions, as follows :

Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital	...	1
Sunderland Royal Infirmary	... ..	29
Relton House, Chester-le-Street P.A.I.	...	19
Middleton Hall, Middleton St. George	...	1
General Hospital, Sunderland	... ..	6
Sunderland Children's Hospital	... ..	7
Winterton House	... ..	3
Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Dunston	...	1
York General Hospital	... ..	1
Princess Mary's Hospital, Newcastle	...	1
37, Crossgate, Durham	... ..	3
418 Westgate Road, Newcastle	... ..	2
Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow	...	1
Galgate U.D., Barnard Castle	... ..	1
Cherryknowles, Sunderland	... ..	1
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	...	2
Sacred Heart Maternity Home, Levens	...	1

18 residents in the district died in Heath House, therefore of the total 303 deaths of residents, 98 or 32.34 per cent. occurred in Institutions.

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list).

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis but one from other puerperal causes.

### Comparison between Houghton-le-Spring and England and Wales.

	Houghton- le-Spring	England and Wales
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)		
births from Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	0.10
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still)		
births from Other Puerperal Causes	1.51	0.16

## Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

25 children died during 1947, before attaining the age of 1 year, being 17 legitimate males, 6 legitimate females, 1 illegitimate male and 1 illegitimate female, equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 38.94 (per 1000 live births).

During 1946, 28 children died before attaining one year of age.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1938-47.

		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1938	...	58.9	...	69.4	...	—
1939	...	43.5	...	45.1	...	—
1940	...	57.9	...	56.3	...	90.9
1941	...	67.5	...	65.3	...	133.3
1942	...	50.21	...	47.4	...	133.3
1943	...	57.6	...	50.85	...	41.7
1944	...	57.04	...	58.38	...	30.33
1945	...	54.10	...	54.73	...	41.66
1946	...	44.02	...	42.55	...	40.00
1947	...	38.94	...	37.33	...	76.92

It will be noted from Table II. that the largest number of Infantile deaths occurred in Penshaw and Houghton Wards, for 6 died in Houghton, 8 in Penshaw, 2 in Newbottle, 4 in Herrington, and 5 in Fence Houses.

For the purpose of these and following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows :

Houghton	...	...	8915
Penshaw	...	...	6790
Newbottle	...	...	4840
Fence Houses	...	...	4595
Herrington	...	...	3720
Total			28860

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1000 population is :

Houghton Ward	...	0.67
Penshaw Ward	...	1.17
Newbottle Ward	...	0.41
Fence Houses Ward	...	1.08
Herrington Ward	...	1.08

Of the 25 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributable to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 10 cases, giving a percentage of 40.00.

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1947, and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz : 14 under one week, 2 between 1 and 2 weeks, 1 between 3 and 4 weeks, 2 between 4 weeks and 3 months, 3 between 3 months and 6 months, 3 between 6 months and 9 months, a total of 25.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 303, 8.25 per cent. of the total deaths were children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 56.00 per cent. were under one week and 64.00 per cent. under four weeks of age.

# **Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1947.**

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 m'nths	3 months and under 6 m'nths	6 months and under 9 m'nths	9 months and under 12 m'ths	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	Certified ...	14	2	...	1	17	2	3	3	...	25
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Meningitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)		...	1	...	...	1	1	2	2	...	6
Diarrhoea ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...		...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	2
Gastritis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying		1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Injury at Birth ...		...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Mal'format'ns		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...		9	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	9
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes ...		3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
		14	2	...	1	17	2	3	3	...	25

Nett Live Births—		Legitimate		Illegitimate			
		Males	Females	Males	Females		
Corrected as per Registrar General	Regis- ... }	314	302	10	16	=	642
Nett Deaths ...	...	17	6	1	1	=	25



During 1947 there were 269 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners (3 of the deceased so certified having post mortems performed on them). 7 deaths were certified by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest; 15 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem); and 9 were uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Houghton ...	35	23	25	26	109
Penshaw ...	25	19	16	16	76
Newbottle ...	13	10	11	8	42
Fence Houses	9	11	10	11	41
Herrington ...	9	11	7	8	35
Totals	91	74	69	69	303

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Houghton ... ..	6	..	3	3	5	7	24	31	30	109
Penshaw ... ..	8	..	..	..	1	7	12	30	18	76
Newbottle ... ..	2	..	..	1	2	4	8	9	16	42
Fence Houses ... ..	5	2	1	1	1	2	13	8	9	41
Herrington ... ..	4	..	1	1	1	2	9	8	9	35
Total	25	2	5	5	10	22	66	86	82	303

During the year under consideration there were no deaths from the chief zymotic diseases.

There were no deaths from 'infantile' diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

In 1947 there were 4 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases equivalent to a death rate of 0.14 per 1000 population.



Comparative Table :

No. of Deaths in Houghton-le-Spring.  
Population 1947—28,860.

Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs	Total
1938	355	0	0	0	2	0	0	8	2	14
1939	322	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	12
1940	369	0	0	2	0	1	0	13	1	17
1941	306	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	8
1942	288	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	1	12
1943	338	0	0	0	1	0	4	8	2	15
1944	321	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	1	10
1945	310	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
1946	338	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	1	12
1947	303	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3

Death Rates in Houghton-le-Spring per 1000 population  
as compared with those for England and Wales

Ho—Houghton-le-Spring; EW—England and Wales.

All Causes		Typhoid & Paratyph'd Fevers		Smallpox		Measles		Scarlet Fev.		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Influenza	
Ho	EW	Ho	EW	Ho	EW	Ho	EW	Ho	EW	Ho	EW	Ho	EW	Ho	EW
14.22	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.07	0.27	0.11
13.44	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.05	0.44	0.21
14.98	14.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.47	0.32
12.57	12.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.07	0.22	0.19
10.81	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.15	0.05	0.26	0.09
12.77	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.15	0.03	0.30	0.37
11.84	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.15	0.02	0.12	0.18
11.35	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.08
11.86	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.28	0.15
10.49	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.10	0.09

### Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1947.

Causes of Death.					Male	Female
All Causes	...	...	...	...	179	124
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	...	...	...	...	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	7	7
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	4	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	0	1
9. Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	2
10. Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0
11. Acute Polio Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	2	1
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Male)	...	...	...	...	2	0
Uterus (Female)	...	...	...	...	0	5
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	8	5
15. Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	0	2
16. Cancer, all other sites	...	...	...	...	13	6
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	1
18. Intra Cranial Vasular Lesions	...	...	...	...	17	8
19. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	45	42
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	5	1
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	8
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	0
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0	0
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2	0
27. Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	3
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	0	1
31. Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	3	1
32. Congenital debility, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	8	3
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	0
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	3	0
35. Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	10	2
36. All other causes	...	...	...	...	21	16

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1947, for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 148 Smaller Towns including Houghton-le-Spring. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000), compared with those for Houghton-le-Spring.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases for the year 1947.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

					England & Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resid't populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Admin- istrative County.	Houghton-le-Spring Urban District.
					Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
BIRTHS—									
Live	...	...	...	...	20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7	22.24
Still	...	...	...	...	0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.65
DEATHS—									
All Causes	...	...	...	...	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8	10.49
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza	...	...	...	...	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.09
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
					Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	..				41	47	36	37	38.94
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	}				5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	0.00
NOTIFICATIONS—					Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Typhoid Fever	...	..			0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...			0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...			0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.13
Scarlet Fever	...	...			1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	1.19
Whooping Cough	...	...			2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	1.48
Diphtheria	...	...			0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.27
Erysipelas	...	...			0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.13
Smallpox	...	...			0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	...			9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	6.37
Pneumonia	...	...			0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	1.93
					Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
(a) NOTIFICATIONS—									
Puerperal Fever	...	}			7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21	0.03
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	}						{ 6.94	

## (b) MATERNAL MORTALITY—England and Wales.

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85

ABORTION: Mortality per million Women aged 15-45  
England and Wales:

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis
9	5

**Causes of Death.**

## (a) Tuberculosis.

There were 12 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1947, being equivalent to a death rate, per 1000 population, of 0.41 from the pulmonary form and 0.13 from the non-pulmonary.

## Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring	No. of Deaths from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring
1938	15	.53	.51	5	.16	.10
1939	11	Not available	.38	7	Not available	.24
1940	9	Not available	.32	4	Not available	.14
1941	13	.601	.48	1	.127	.04
1942	10	Not available	.37	3	Not available	.11
1943	6	.557	.22	0	.111	.00
1944	13	.524	.44	5	.103	.18
1945	14	.519	.51	5	.100	.18
1946	8	Not available	.28	2	Not available	.07
1947	12	.47	.41	4	.079	.13



## (b) Heart Disease.

Heart disease was, as in former years the chief cause of death throughout the area, 87 persons, being 45 males and 42 females were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 28.71 per cent. of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.01 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table :

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		M	F		All Causes	Heart Disease	
1938	355	110	61	49	12.05	3.73	39.86
1939	322	91	43	48	13.44	3.19	28.26
1940	369	112	54	58	14.98	4.06	30.35
1941	306	71	39	32	12.57	2.61	23.20
1942	288	79	40	39	10.43	2.96	27.43
1943	338	90	51	39	12.77	3.40	26.63
1944	321	77	38	39	11.84	2.84	23.99
1945	310	98	52	46	11.35	3.22	31.61
1946	338	92	47	45	11.86	3.22	27.22
1947	303	87	45	42	10.49	3.01	28.71

**Cancer.**

41 deaths—being 23 males and 18 females, were due to cancer according to statistics supplied by the Registrar General. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 1.42 per 1000 population or 13.59 per cent. of the total deaths.. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 1.85.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to Cancer in Houghton-le-Spring and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1940—1947.

Year	Number of Deaths					Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male		Female		Total	
1940	21	...	21	...	42	1.52
1941	17	...	21	...	38	1.39
1942	19	...	14	...	33	1.23
1943	20	...	20	...	40	1.51
1944	17	...	22	...	39	1.44
1945	24	...	31	...	55	2.01
1946	27	...	21	...	48	1.68
1947	23	...	18	...	41	1.42

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given



early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided. Cancer in the early stages practically never causes pain.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the large clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Of the 41 deaths due to cancer 13 were due to cancer of the stomach and duodenum (a site usually often attacked) and 3 to cancer of the lung.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1947 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site.		Males	Ages.	Females—Ages.
Stomach & Duodenum		48,57,58,62,70,72,72,76.		41, 52, 54, 73, 73.
Lung	... ..	46, 62, 72.		—
Brain	... ..	—		—
Rectum	... ..	70.		71.
Liver	... ..	—		—
Breast	... ..	—		49, 71, 85.
Uterus	... ..	—		46, 57, 57, 60, 70.
Aesophagus	... ..	—		—
Cervical Glands	... ..	—		—
Pancreas	... ..	51.		—
Prostate	... ..	56, 62.		—
Face	... ..	—		—
Colon	... ..	48, 58, 60, 70 73, 79.		—
Larynx	... ..	—		—
Mouth	... ..	—		—
Spine	... ..	—		—
Bladder	... ..	—		66, 70, 74, 84.
Penis	... ..	—		—
Cerebrae	... ..	—		—
Vulva	... ..	—		—
Lower Jaw	... ..	70.		—
Ventricule	... ..	66.		—

## **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

### **Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

See commencement of Report.

### **Development or changes in the following Services.**

#### **Laboratory Facilities.**

As before.

#### **Ambulance Facilities.**

In addition to ambulances provided by the Lambton, Hetton & Joicey Colliery Company, for the conveyance of colliery casualties, the district is serviced by an ambulance belonging to the Local Authority (stationed at Herrington Burn) for the conveyance of cases of general sickness and injury, and by an ambulance kept at the Isolation Hospital for cases of infectious diseases.

#### **Nursing in the Home.**

Maternity nursing is now done almost entirely by midwives appointed by the County Council.

Sickness and Accidents. These cases may be attended by District Nurses. There are three branches of the Nursing Association operating, viz: Philadelphia and District, Lumley and Fence Houses, and Houghton-le-Spring. The subscription is extremely small, a penny per week. The County Council subscribe to all local branches annually, and anyone who is normally in receipt of Public Assistance may, in case of illness, have the services of a nurse on the recommendation of a doctor.

Infectious Diseases. These are usually nursed by parents or relatives or removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital. In very exceptional circumstances the Council could make available the provision of trained nurses for home nursing of infectious diseases.

#### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

There is no change in the services provided, all being maintained and administered by the County Council.

#### **Hospitals — Public and Voluntary.**

There is no change in the services provided.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

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### Water Supply.

The supply of water in the Urban District was satisfactory generally, but in the Penshaw Ward, there was, on occasions, an acute shortage, due to the N.C.B. being unable to maintain a sufficient quantity of water in the Herrington Reservoirs. During the year, however, the N.C.B. augmented their supply by obtaining water from the Stoney Gate Reservoir of the Sunderland and South Shields Water Co., since when, no further complaints of shortage of water have been received.

New water mains, complete with valves and hydrants, have been laid on the Barnwell Housing Estate, Penshaw Ward, the total length being 3380 lin. yards, and a new 3" main, 130 yards in length, was laid in Back Church Street, Shiney Row.

Many bacteriological examinations were made during the year, and the reports were in the main satisfactory. The quality of the water supplied in the Copt Hill area was found unsatisfactory and the occupiers were instructed to boil same before use. Since then later samples have given a good report and at the present time continue to be satisfactory.

All dwelling houses in the area have a piped supply.

### Closet Accommodation.

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1947 was as follows:

Water Closets .....	8235
Ash Closets .....	50
Privy Middens .....	10

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.

New sewers have been laid on the Barnwell Estate, totalling 4175 Lin. yards in length. Surface water and foul sewers 407 Lin. yards in all have been laid to the North-Eastern Trading Estates at Fence Houses. A relief sewer was constructed at Old Penshaw which will obviate any further flooding in this area. As a result of the Trading Estate and Housing development in the Fence Houses Ward, a new out-fall sewer will eventually have to be laid.

The three Sewage Disposal Works have during the year functioned very satisfactorily, but in connection with the Flint Mill and Sedgeleth Works, it will be necessary in the near future to relay the outfall sewers, which have subsided as a result of mining operations.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

On account of the war the scheme for culverting the Burn at Herrington has not been proceeded with.

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

During the year the work of house refuse collection has been re-organised. There are just over 8,200 premises which are divided into eight districts of approximately 1,000 premises each. By reason of the dual tenancy of many houses the actual number of occupiers is in excess of this number. Each team consists of a driver and two fillers. There is also a foreman who is responsible for the collection of kitchen waste and general salvage. The present estimated cost is 25/- per house per annum, against a pre-war cost of 15/- per house, due to the general increase in wages and materials. Compared with the increases in other directions this can, I think, be regarded as satisfactory. The incidence of sickness is still fairly high but regard must be had for the fact that the work proceeds during very inclement weather. The total time lost during the year amounted to 96 weeks.

The work has been satisfactorily performed during the year and apart from holiday periods and occasional sickness or mechanical breakdowns has been carried out with commendable regularity. Two new Karrier Bantam vehicles were procured during the year 1946 and delivery of two similar vehicles during the latter part of 1947. As previously reported the refuse is disposed of by tipping, many acres of unusable boggy land having been reclaimed for cultivation. Tipping has also taken place at Whitefield Pit Quarry which was dangerous and this place is quickly filling in. Further provision for tipping has been made at Coxgreen Quarry.

### **Salvage of Waste Materials.**

Salvage operations continued during the year and the following gives some indication of the type and quantities of waste materials reclaimed during the year :—

Paper and Cardboard, 50 tons; Black Scrap, 6 tons; Rags, 5 cwts.; Bottles and Jars, 3 tons; Kitchen Waste, 117 tons.



The latter is transported to Sunderland for sterilization and converted into pig pudding and is uneconomical. The Council are under direction in respect of kitchen waste collection, the basic reason being the prevention of foot and mouth disease. At the same time licences are granted to pigkeepers by the Ministry of Agriculture and certain small pigkeepers are allowed to collect so that probably only 50 per cent. of the available waste is transported for sterilization. In addition only a limited number of authorities in the County are under direction. Considerable correspondence has taken place with the Board of Trade respecting this matter, with a view to obtaining reimbursement of the loss incurred.

Meanwhile in the national interest the collection of kitchen waste has continued, the figures for the last four years being as follows: 1944 90 tons; 1945 124 tons; 1946 137 tons; 1947 117 tons.



**Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector's Department  
during the year 1947.**

<b>I. Public Health Acts.</b>				Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses	}	Foul Conditions		3	...	3
and		Structural Def'ts		196	12	142
Schools		Overcrowding		24	2	8
Lodging-houses		...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops		...	...	4	...	4
Cowsheds		...	...	12	...	12
Bakehouses		...	...	2	...	2
Slaughter houses		...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies		...	...	2	...	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		...	...	4	...	4
Water Closets		...	...	182	6	182
Defective Yard Paving		...	...	6	2	6
House	}	Defective Traps		16	...	16
Drainage		No disconnection from sewers		...	...	...
		Other Faults		148	12	148
Water Supply		...	...	40	...	38
Pigsties		...	...	4	...	4
Animals Improperly Kept		...	...	4	...	4
Offensive Trades		...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances		...	...	3	...	3
Other Nuisances		...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	650	34	576

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ... Seizures of Unwholesome Food ... Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ... Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ... Samples found Adulterated ...	8  22 tons  ...  62  ...	Including meat Central Slaughterhouse    Milk, Ice Cream
III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ... Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	68 102 ... ... ...	
IV. General.		
Number of New Houses erected during year Number of such Houses occupied during year Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets Ash-closets converted into Water-closets Total number of Water-closets in District Total number of Ash-closets in District... Total number of Ashpit-privies in District	216 216 3 1 1 8232 48 10	

### **Housing Repairs.**

The difficulty of obtaining labour and materials is still prevalent and is retarding the work of repairs, especially owing to the priority of new house erection.

In many cases recourse to legal action has been necessary but even then considerable time elapses before the work is completed.

On the whole however quite an appreciable amount of repair work has been completed.

### **Shops Acts.**

During the winter period the usual closing hours were curtailed. This resulted in considerable benefit to the shop assistants without detriment to the shop keepers.

### **Camping Sites.**

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

### **Schools.**

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be generally satisfactory. Some of the older types need to be re-planned when circumstances permit and representation was made respecting Dairy Lane School, Houghton-le-Spring. As a result of further deterioration of the fabric together with inadequate heating facilities the premises were eventually closed and put out of commission by the D.C.E.C.

It has never been necessary to request that a School should be closed on account of infectious disease. Speaking generally, infectious cases have been distributed throughout the district.

### **Cinemas, Public Houses, and Halls.**

There are six cinemas in the district: Fence Houses 1; Houghton 3; Herrington Burn 1; New Penshaw 1.

These and other places of public entertainment were inspected during the year with respect to sanitary arrangements and generally speaking were found satisfactory. Improvements were effected at the Victory Cinema, New Penshaw.

### **Eradication of the Bed Bug.**

The work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with either tenant or owner. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

		Infested		Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	...	16	...	16
Number of Other Houses	...	42	...	42

### **Rat Infestation.**

A few minor cases of rat infestation were reported and dealt with. One of these occurred in a Council House where recurring infestations occurred. Eventually the floors were taken up and the site was proofed since when there has been no further trouble.

### **Piggeries.**

Further extensions were made to the new piggeries at Quarry Head, Shiney Row and the premises have now attained a high standard of sanitary efficiency.

There are however many erections in other parts of the district which leave much to be desired but in view of the national appeal for increased food production no stringent action has been taken in respect of these.



## Housing Conditions.

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### Housing Statistics for the year 1947.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :	
	(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	728
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	982
	(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	212
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	258
	(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	4
	(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	196
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :	
	Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	142
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
	A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	22
	(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners ... ..	16
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	2
	B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
	(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	6
	(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners ... ..	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—



C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	2
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	2

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	—
	Closed by Owners ... ..	3

### Housing.

The work of constructing houses in the Council's area has continued satisfactorily during the year, and despite unsettled conditions of materials supplies, good progress has been made. 24 two bedroom and 176 three bedroom type houses have been erected by direct labour, and 12 by private enterprise, giving a total of 212 houses completed and occupied in the year.

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1947.	No. of houses erected during 1947.			No. of houses in course of erection at 31st December, 1947.			TOTAL
		Trad. Perm.	Temp. Prefabs.	Perm. Prefabs.	Trad. Perm.	Temp. Prefabs.	Perm. Prefabs.	
Newtown	82	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
North Rectory	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Villa No. 1 and 2	240	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
Chilton Moor	148	...	...	...	...	20	...	168
Colliery Row	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Hetton Road	308	...	...	...	...	...	...	308
Hall Lane	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Race Course	84	...	...	62	...	...	...	308
Grange Estate	88	...	...	...	64	...	...	120
Sedgeleitch	28	...	...	...	32	...	...	28
Hillside	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Homelands	184	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
St. Aidan's	108	...	...	...	30	...	...	138
Park Estate	268	...	...	...	...	...	...	268
Station Road	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Chandler Row	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Chester Road Estate	276	...	...	...	...	...	...	276
New Penshaw	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Penshaw Hill	96	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Barnwell	...	...	22	...	...	...	13	81
	2,278	...	42	62	126	42	13	2,663

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

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### Milk Supplies.

During the year 62 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and generally were found satisfactory. Most of these were raw milk taken at the farms. Samples of milk after pasteurization were also taken. During the year further licences to produce T.T. milk were granted to farmers in the area. There are now six producers of T.T. milk and two producers with accredited herds in the district. The sterilizing and bottling plant of the Houghton-le-Spring Dairy-men's Association situate in the Lake is working satisfactorily and practically the whole of the milk in the district is supplied in bottles or in cartons which constitute a welcome contrast to the unsatisfactory condition which prevailed during the war period.

Samples of ice cream were also submitted for examination and the results were generally satisfactory. More small shops are now retailing ice cream. In these cases it is often wrapped and is stored in a refrigerator cabinet.

### Central Slaughter House.

The premises of the Co-operative Society Ltd., situate at Newbottle were taken over by the Ministry of Food and the carcasses of all animals slaughtered there have been examined by your Inspectors. The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Cattle, 1959; Cows, 382; Calves, 224; Sheep & Lambs, 6447; Pigs, 114; making a total of 9126, all of which were inspected. In addition 28 pigs were slaughtered by farmers or cottagers during the year.

The results of inspections are contained in the following tables:

**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	1959	382	224	6447	114
Number inspected ... ..	1959	382	224	6447	114
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	11	2	7	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	829	136	0	74	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than T.B. ...	42.2	38.4	0.86	1.25	7.9
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	7	0	0	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	352	98	0	0	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	13.2	27.4	0	0	3.5

**WEIGHT CONDEMNED (in Lbs).**

	Other Diseases			T.B.		
	Carcasses	Organs	Parts	Carcasses	Organs	Parts
Cattle— ex Cows	3428	7859	449	3820	9808	1941
Cows ...	3840	1879	269	3481	2683	709
Calves ...	69	27	37	0	285	0
Sheep ...	291	288	260	0	1149	0
Pigs ...	140	54	122	160	50	12
	7768	10,107	1137	7461	13,975	2662

Approximate Weight Condemned ... .. 19 tons.



## **Food and Drugs.**

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### **Unsound Food.**

Considerable quantities of tinned and other goods in retail shops were found on inspection to be unsound and were destroyed. These included 862 tins of meat, 164 tins of fish, 84 tins of milk, 220 tins of vegetables, 62 tins of soup, 8 tins of fruit, 68 bottles of sauce and pickles. Other foods comprised 92 lbs. of fish, 86 lbs. of fruit, 58 lbs. of jam, 8 lbs. of butter, 29 lbs. of cheese, 105 lbs. of sausages, 5 lbs. bacon, 4 lbs. tomatoes, 40 lbs. margarine, 82 lbs. rolled oats, sausage meat 46 lbs., sugar confectionery 30 lbs., black puddings 20 lbs.

### **Shellfish.**

There are no beds in the district.

### **Bakehouses.**

Although a considerable quantity of bread and flour confectionery is imported into the district quite an appreciable quantity is produced in this area. The premises generally are kept in a cleanly and sanitary condition and attention is given to the personal hygiene of persons employed.

### **Ice-Cream**

In view of the importance attached to the cleanly production of this commodity 18 samples were submitted for examination during the year. In addition extensive improvements were put in hand at two of the establishments manufacturing ice cream.

### **Fried Fish Shops.**

During the food shortage these have served a useful purpose in supplementing rationed goods. The standard of cleanliness is well maintained and in one establishment an all-electric range has been installed. Most of the ranges in the district are heated by coal. None of the establishments are working at full capacity owing to the restriction on supplies of fat.

## Factories.

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The following are the principal places within your district:

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. N.E.S. Co. Electrical Power Sub-Station.
4. Sunderland and District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing Works.
10. Builders Merchants.
11. Candle Making.
12. Bakeries.
13. Sugar Confectioners.
14. Clothing Factories.
15. Iron Foundry.
16. Motor Repair Shops.
17. Boot Repairs.
18. Cement Blocks.
19. Bedding Factory.
20. Building Works.
21. Travelling Cases.

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action and included the provision of fire escape arrangements at one factory. A new trading estate has been sited at Colliery Row and will increase the number of factories when completed.

**1—Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecuted Occupiers
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	82	172	12	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	...	...	...	...
(b) Others	...	...	...	...
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	8	..	...
Total	86	180	12	...

**2—Defects found.**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	6	6	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature(S3)	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...
Inef'tive drainage of floors(S6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :				
Insufficient ...	2	1	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	4	4	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to Homework) ...	1	1	...	...
Total ...	13	12	...	...

## **Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.**

During 1947 some 380 cases of infectious diseases (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, a decrease of 190 compared with the number of cases notified during 1946.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

34 cases were notified as against 51 in 1946 and of these 29 were isolated in hospital.

One case of puerperal pyrexia was notified but without any relationship to cases of Scarlet Fever or sore throat without rash.

The case incidence was 1.19 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales being 1.37 per 1000 civilian population.

The case incidence for the various wards was: Houghton 0.56, Penshaw 1.76, Newbottle 0.20, Fence Houses 2.17, and Herrington 1.61.

### **Diphtheria.**

There were 8 cases of diphtheria in the district during 1947, as compared with 15 cases in 1946. 8 of these cases were removed to hospital in addition to a number of cases which were suspected of having diphtheria and were proved to be non-diphtheric. There were, in 1947, no deaths in the district from this cause. Anti-toxin is available by day or night at the Northern Isolation Hospital, or during office hours at the Public Health Department, Newbottle Street, Houghton.

The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.27, compared with 0.13 for England and Wales.

The case incidence in the Wards was Houghton 0.22 Penshaw 0.29, Newbottle 0.20, Fence Houses 0.43, Herrington 0.26.

### **Immunisation.**

Of the 8 cases of diphtheria 1 had been previously immunised.

During 1947, 357 children under 5 years of age and 151 between 5 and 15 years were immunised.

At the end of 1947 approximately 36.05 per cent. of the child population under 5 years and 66.41 per cent. of those between 5 and 15 years of age were immunised.



It is extremely desirable that 75% of all children in the area should be immunised and all efforts made to increase the numbers under 5 years of age. The County Council are carrying out propaganda with this in view. The importance of a boosting injection after three or four years must also be emphasised.

At the commencement of 1946 the County Council commenced free immunisation of children under five years of age at the Child Welfare Clinics but parents have still the option of having their children who are under five immunised by their family doctor or by the Child Welfare Medical Officer.

### **Influenza and Pneumonia.**

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately, on the whole of a mild character 3 deaths were ascribed to this during 1947 as against 8 in 1946 and 1 in 1945.

There were 13 deaths ascribed as being due to pneumonia (some influenzal pneumonia) as against 22 in 1946, whilst the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 56 as against 62 in 1946 and 42 in 1945.

### **Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas.**

Measles and Whooping Cough continued to be epidemic throughout the district in 1947. In 1947 there were 184 cases of measles and 43 cases of whooping cough notified as against 272 measles and 97 whooping cough in 1946.

During the year no deaths were ascribed to whooping cough or to measles.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and the first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infection has been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

There were 4 cases of Erysipelas notified during the year only one of which required hospital treatment.

During 1946, 17 cases of erysipelas were notified.

### **Infantile Paralysis.**

During the year 1947 some 13 cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area being 5 in July and 8 in August. This was a period during which numerous cases were notified throughout the country.

Unfortunately there were 3 deaths from this cause and a number of the patients received prolonged orthopaedic treatment, several still being in hospital at the end of 1947.

In no case was it possible to trace any direct or indirect contact between any two patients and the cases were distributed over the whole district with the exception of Herrington Ward.

It is noteworthy that no previous cases had been notified since 1929 although in the absence of an epidemic very slight cases may have been overlooked.

### **School Notification of Disease.**

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

**Notifiable Disease during the year 1947.**

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1947.**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	34	29	...
Diphtheria ... ..	8	8	...
Enteric F. (incl. Paratyphoid)	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	4	4	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1	...
Erysipelas ... ..	4	1	...
Pneumonia ... ..	56	9	13
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	2	1	...
Measles ... ..	184	1	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	43	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	11	11	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	2	2	3
Totals ... ..	349	67	16

The following table shows the following important facts, viz. : the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.



Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1947 — Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.
	At Ages—Years												Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington	Total		
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over								
Scarlet Fever	1	...	1	2	3	7	14	4	1	1	1	...	34	5	12	1	10	6	29	1.19
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	2	1	2	1	8	0.27
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	0.03
Pneumonia	9	2	...	2	5	5	3	2	7	9	7	5	56	14	21	7	5	9	9	1.93
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	4	2	...	...	2	...	1	0.13
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	14	7	4	...	1	2	...	0.48
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	...	2	...	10	4	...	2	4	...	...	0.34
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	1	...	...	0.10
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	...	1	1	...	0.13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	0.06
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	3	...	4	0.13
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	10	26	26	26	23	68	2	1	2	...	...	...	184	101	27	24	11	21	1	6.37
Whooping Cough	6	7	4	11	2	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	21	8	3	9	2	...	1.48
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	2	4	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	11	7	2	...	...	...	11	0.38
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	2	0.06
Totals	28	37	37	46	36	102	26	13	18	16	15	6	380	169	78	41	50	42	67	



# **Case Rates for Infectious Diseases — Notifications per 1,000 population.**

Figures for England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterley Returns. Those for Houghton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	Houghton Urban District	Case Rates in Wards				
				Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington
Smallpox	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.37	1.37	1.19	0.56	1.76	0.20	2.17	1.61
Diphtheria	0.13	0.14	0.27	0.22	0.29	0.20	0.43	0.26
Enteric Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.18	0.13	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00
Pneumonia	0.79	0.68	1.93	1.55	3.09	1.44	1.09	2.41
Measles	9.41	9.58	6.37	11.33	3.98	4.95	2.40	5.64
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.13	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.00
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.02	1.48	2.35	0.89	0.62	1.95	0.53
Poliomyelitis	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.78	0.29	0.41	0.00	0.00
Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00

## Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

## Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1947 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

## New Cases of Mortality during 1947.

24 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 14 males and 10 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 7 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 3 males and 4 females.

The following table shows the notifications of Tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex, for the period 1938-1946.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1938	5	8	13	11	5	16
1939	12	10	22	4	8	12
1940	4	7	11	11	13	24
1941	3	10	13	5	6	11
1942	11	16	27	11	9	20
1943	12	7	19	11	4	15
1944	21	17	38	21	15	36
1945	14	9	23	22	18	40
1946	15	13	28	9	9	18
1947	14	10	24	3	4	7

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis noted in 1947 according to sex and ward.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Houghton ...	7	4	1	1	13
Penshaw ...	4	—	1	1	6
Newbottle ...	—	2	—	—	2
Fence Houses	1	4	1	1	7
Herrington ...	2	—	—	1	3
Totals ...	14	10	3	4	31

The following table shows the various age-periods for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
5 years ...	—	2	2	2	—	1	2	1
15 years ...	3	2	—	1	2	2	—	—
25 years ...	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 years ...	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 years ...	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
55 years ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	14	10	3	4	7	5	2	2

The figures in the Death column are from locally compiled records.

#### Occupation.

Amongst the non-pulmonary cases 5 were of school children and 2 under school age.

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 3 were miners, 4 were discharged from the Forces, 4 were housewives, 1 clerk, 2 shop assistants, 1 labourer, 2 unemployed, 2 school children, 2 under school age and 3 occupation unknown.

#### Site of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

2 cervical glands, 2 abdomen, 1 meninges, 1 neck, 1 lymphatic gland.

#### Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patient or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

#### Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.







